

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 11-13 and 19 are pending in this application, Claims 10, 14-18, and 20-23 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 4,981,408 to Hughes et al, Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/005024 A1 to Ishikawa et al, Claims 14-15, 18, 20-21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,417,537 to Miller, Claims 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al in view of Miller.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are allowed and that Claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

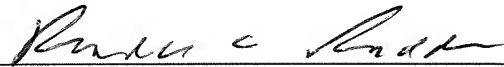
Applicants have rewritten Claim 19 to include all of the claim elements of base Claim 14 and intervening claim 15. Further, Claims 10, 14-18, and 20-23 have been canceled. Therefore, pending Claims 1-9, 11-13, and 19 are in condition for allowance.

Application No. 10/500,102
Reply to Office Action of August 3, 2007

Consequently, in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Steven P. Weihrouch
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,829

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Ronald A. Rudder, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,618